

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20, 22, 23 and 29 are pending. Claim 29 has been added. Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20, 22, and 23 have been amended. Claims 21 and 25-28 have been cancelled without prejudice. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and the figures. Further, these amendments have been made for reasons unrelated to patentability. No new matter is believed to have been added by these amendments.

35 U.S.C. § 102/103 Claim Rejections over Zhao

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20-23, and 25-28 stand rejected as being anticipated by, or in the alternative obvious over Zhao et al. (US 6,514,602; hereinafter "Zhao"). Claims 21 and 25-28 have been cancelled, therefore, these rejections are moot. For the remaining rejections, The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20, 22, and 23 depend from new independent Claim 29. Claim 29 recites a method for producing a personal care product having a biodegradable film comprising the steps of providing a biodegradable polymer and a water soluble polymer; forming a blended mixture the biodegradable polymer and the water soluble polymer to form a precursor film; stretching the precursor film from about 100 to about 500 percent of its original length while in contact with an aqueous solution to form the biodegradable film; and applying the biodegradable film to the personal care product.

Zhao fails to teach or suggest a blended precursor film that is stretched from about 100 to about 500 times its original length when in contact with an aqueous solution. The Examiner admits that Zhao does not teach that the film was stretched while in contact with an aqueous solution. (Office Action dated April 27, 2008, p. 3). Further, the Examiner asserts that Zhao discloses a stretched film because it discloses that it would be preferable to stretch the film (col. 3, lines 20-35). However, there are many different methods of stretching and processing film and Zhao does not disclose the claimed method.

For the instant reasons, Zhao does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17-18, 20, and 22-23 depend from claim 29 and therefore, are allowable for the reasons stated above.

35 U.S.C. § 102/103 Claim Rejections over Wu

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20-22, 24, 27, and 28 stand rejected as being anticipated by, or in the alternative obvious over Wu et al. (US 5,200,247; hereinafter "Wu"). Claims 21 and 25-28 have been cancelled, therefore, these rejections are moot. For the remaining rejections, The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As stated above, Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20, and 22 depend from Claim 29, which recites a method for producing a personal care product having a biodegradable film, where one of the steps includes stretching the precursor film from about 100 to about 500 percent of its original length while in contact with an aqueous solution to form the biodegradable film. The Examiner has admitted that this limitation is not literally found in Wu. Furthermore, Wu does not disclose the claimed method of processing a film, regardless of its original composition. Wu does not teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention. Therefore, The Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejections of Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20, and 22.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Claim Rejections over Zhao or Wu in view of Topolkaraev et al.

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20-23, and 25-28 stand rejected as being obvious over Zhao in view of Topolkaraev et al. (US 5,800,758; hereinafter "Topolkaraev"). Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20-22, 24, 27, and 28 stand rejected as being obvious over Wu in view of Topolkaraev. Claims 21 and 25-28 have been cancelled, therefore, these rejections are moot. For the remaining rejections, The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As stated above, Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20, and 22 depend from Claim 29, which recites a method for producing a personal care product having a biodegradable film, where one of the steps includes stretching the precursor film from about 100 to about 500 percent of its original length while in contact with an aqueous

solution to form the biodegradable film. Zhao and Wu fail to teach or suggest each and every one of the claimed elements of the present invention. The discrepancies of Zhao and Wu are not remedied by the addition of Topolkaraev. The Examiner argues that Topolkaraev discloses thermoplastic films which are stretched while operatively contacted with a bath of a desired surface-active liquid. However, Topolkaraev fails to teach or suggest a process for forming a blended mixture of the biodegradable polymer and the water soluble polymer to form a precursor film; stretching the precursor film from about 100 to about 500 percent of its original length while in contact with an aqueous solution and processing the precursor film into a biodegradable film. Because this additional reference does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Zhao or Wu, the Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejections of Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20, and 22. It would not have been obvious to one of skill in the art to modify the cited references to meet the limitations of the claimed invention.

SUMMARY

Pending Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, and 29 as presented are patentable. The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

/Rashad L. Morgan/

Rashad L. Morgan
Registration No. 60,304
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200